

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 07255 081011Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 080955Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3507
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7255

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR,)3, IS
SUBJ: UNIFIL: ARRANGEMENTS WITH MAJOR HADDAD

REF: USUN 02329

WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE AT THIS TIME FOR THE U.S.
TO SOLICIT THE GOI TO ENCOURAGE HADDAD'S COOPERATION WITH
UNIFIL AND THE GOL (REFTEL). IT IS OUR DISTINCT IMPRESSION
THAT DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UN CONCERNING SOUTH
LEBANON HAVE BEEN MORE EFFECTIVE IN RESOLVING THE ISSUES
AT HAND THAN EARLIER U.S. ATTEMPTS AT MEDIATION BETWEEN THE
TWO. WE CERTAINLY DON'T RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT IN
THE EVENT OF A CLEARLY IMPENDING CRISIS BETWEEN HADDAD AND
THE UN, IT COULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO WEIGH IN HERE WITH
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THE ISRAELIS. WE WOULD ALSO OBSERVE IN THAT CONNECTION
THAT ISRAEL POSSESSES FAR LESS THAN TOTAL AUTHORITY OVER
HADDAD, WHO IN TURN IS HARDLY THE ONLY CHRISTIAN LEADER
WHO IS MAKING DECISIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON. FROM THIS PER-
SPECTIVE, IT APPEARS THAT ARRANGEMENTS ON THE GROUND IN
SOUTH LEBANON ARE MORE OR LESS SLOWLY WORKING THEMSELVES
OUT AND THAT WE ARE SHORT OF THE SORT OF CRITICAL SITUATION

WHICH WOULD INVITE DIRECT U.S. INVOLVEMENT. INDEED,
SIILASVUO HAS HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK THE UNITED
STATES TO ASSUME SUCH A ROLE, AND HE HAS NOT DONE SO.
FINALLY, EZER WEIZMAN, THE ONLY EFFECTIVE INTERLOCUTOR ON
THESE MATTERS WITHIN THE GOI, IS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.
THUS, IN OUR JUDGMENT, WE SHOULD ALLOW THE ISRAELIS, HADDAD
AND THE UN TO GO ON TRYING TO WORK THIS OUT THEMSELVES UNTIL
IT IS APPARENT THEY ARE UNABLE TO DO SO.
LEWIS

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